

2019 - 2020

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

OUR SCHOOL COMMITMENT

We are committed to fostering a safe, accepting and supportive learning environment that promotes well-being (i.e., cognitive, emotional, social, physical) and the academic achievement of all learners. We believe that this is achieved through a Whole School Approach. We will respond to any student behaviour that is likely to have a negative impact on the school climate and will investigate all reports of bullying. We will provide support to those affected by bullying, including those who engage in bullying.

Bullying is not tolerated here.

POLICY STATEMENT

Bullying will not be accepted on school property, at school-related activities, on school buses, or in any other circumstances (e.g., online) where engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the school climate.

Ministry of Education of Ontario, PPM 144

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Healthy Relationships are those that provide:

- *A sense of security and stability*
- *Basic needs*
- *A sense of being valued and belonging*
- *Support and guidance to learn essential skills and understanding*
- *Protection from excessive stress*

PREVNet, 2014

We all share a collective responsibility in fostering healthy relationships that build welcoming, respectful, safe and inclusive environments.

DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Bullying: Means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where,

(a) the behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,

- (i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or
- (ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and

(b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education;

Cyber-bullying: For the purposes of the definition of "bullying" seen here, bullying includes bullying by electronic means (commonly known as cyber-bullying), including,

- (a) creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
- (b) impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet; and
- (c) communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

For the purposes of the definition of "bullying" in subsection (1), behaviour includes the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means.

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Our Safe and Accepting Schools Team

Our Safe and Accepting Schools Team leads our planning to promote a safe, inclusive, and welcoming school climate.

Chair: D. Lambrou

Teacher(s): K. Wraith

Student(s): Savannah Austin, Tayvon Haines

Community Partner(s): Terrie D. (Public Health Nurse)

Principal: L. Houston **Vice Principal:** J. Hutchinson

Support Staff:

Parent(s):

What the Data Tells Us - School Climate Surveys and Other Data

As part of the on-going monitoring and evaluation process, schools gather data from a various of sources, including school climate surveys of students, staff and parents every two years. Our school data indicates the following:

STRENGTHS

School Climate Survey

- Only 1.9% of students felt unwelcome at school due to gender
- 91% of students are aware of how to report bullying
- 90% of students feel safe at school

Based on the analysis of various sources of data, our school has identified specific bullying prevention and intervention goal statements for this school year. These goal statements will drive our actions for this year. Outcomes will be monitored and assessed using a continuous improvement cycle.

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GOALS

Create a safe and accepting school climate through:

- Focus on bullying prevention and making a difference
- Continue to educate students on the difference between conflict and bullying
- Support strategies to resolve conflict and report/resolve bullying issues
- Raise awareness and implementation of Restorative Practice in staff
- Create a culture of Upstanders (student leadership from school community)
- Work toward all students feeling safe in the locker area, change rooms and washrooms
- Establish school-wide practices that create a welcoming school environment based on the understanding that student well-being is the foundation
- Align classroom practices that promote Zones of Regulation (Self-Awareness of student emotions)

Increase percentages for how to report bullying and feeling safe at school to 100%

What We are Doing In Our Classrooms and in Our School - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Strategies

Our school is implementing a variety of strategies to support student well-being and to positively impact students' readiness to learn. These strategies involve students, staff, parents and community members as part of a whole school approach. Below are highlights of our strategies.

AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling positive relationships and positive interactions • Teachers create connections with students to provide a safe space and support system in the event of a bullying incident • Establishing norms for collaborative and respectful behaviour in the classroom and on the playground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict solution/Restorative Practices • Promoting Positive Mental Health • Progressive Discipline: A Bias-Free Approach • Self-Regulation • Zone of Regulation • Spark Bike |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using common language throughout school regarding zones of regulation and bullying • Character Education • The Four A's – Academics, Athletics, Attitude, Arts • Student reflection on learning skills and work habits • Staff Visibility - Teachers, Educational Assistants, and Lunchroom Supervisors wear an orange vest or green jacket while supervising students outside at recess • Differentiated instruction – providing a wide variety of learning opportunities and activities to meet student strengths and interests • Pink Shirt Day • Guest speakers – e.g. School Liaison Officer or Public Health Nurse to speak on Bullying Prevention • Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week (Nov. 18-22) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem-solving and decision making skills • Promote upstander/ally behaviour • Equity and Inclusive Education • Positive message of the day • Orange Shirt Day • Acts of Kindness |
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How “Student Voice” is Present in Our School - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Strategies

Engaging students to help shape the learning environment is an important component of a whole school approach to promoting a positive school climate. The following examples are highlights of “student voice” in action at our school.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra curricular activities (student council, athletics, band, lunch room helpers, office helpers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participation in Safe and Accepting Schools Team • Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week class initiatives |
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INTERVENTION	How We Report Bullying at Our School		
	Procedures are in place that allow students and parents to report bullying incidents as well as procedures that outline the requirements for staff to report bullying in accordance with legislation.		
	<p>Student Reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting bullying to a trusted adult (e.g., parent, teacher, administrator, support staff, police liaison officer) Using the “Report Bullying Now” button on the school/board website 	<p>Staff Reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Education Act states that an employee of the board who becomes aware that a student at the school of the board may have engaged in a serious student incident shall report the matter to the principal as soon as reasonably possible” (PPM 144) When appropriate, staff complete and submit the “Safe Schools Incident Reporting Form – Part I” to the principal. The principal provides written acknowledgement to the employee using the “Safe Schools Incident Reporting Form – Part II” (PPM 144) 	<p>Parent/Community Reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting bullying to the classroom teacher, support staff and/or administration Using the “Report Bullying Now” button on the school website
	How We Respond to Bullying at Our School		
	Our school response to bullying follows a bias-free approach to progressive discipline that involves the following immediate and long-term actions:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the safety of all involved Responding to any student behaviour that is likely to have a negative impact on the school climate Conducting a school-based investigation (consulting the Police/Board Protocol, when necessary) considering mitigating and other factors 			

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- Contacting the parents of the person(s) who has been harmed and the parents of the person(s) who has caused harm, in accordance with legislation
- Collaborating with community partners, when appropriate
- Developing an action plan that is responsive and supportive
- Engaging in Restorative Practice conferencing, when appropriate
- Implementing a Safe Schools Student Safety Plan, when necessary
- Implementing/reviewing a Special Education Behaviour Safety Plan, when appropriate

INTERVENTION

How We Provide Ongoing Support to Those Impacted by Bullying at Our School

Support for the person(s) who has been harmed, the person(s) who has caused harm and the person(s) who has witnessed harm may include:

- Furthering school-level support such as connection to a caring adult, classroom and yard considerations, special education considerations, participation in co-curricular programming
- Implementing board-level supports such as social work or psychological services (with consent)
- Identifying community support resources
- Implementing a Safe Schools Student Safety Plan and/or Support and Responsibility Agreement (SRA), when necessary

Follow-up for the person(s) who has been harmed, the person(s) who has caused harm and the person(s) who has witnessed harm will include:

- Individual monitoring based on specific needs (e.g., regular check-ins)

TRAINING/LEARNIN

How We Are Building Capacity for Prevention and Intervention At Our School

Training/learning opportunities occur at the board level, community level and school level. Here are highlights of our training/learning opportunities:

Student:

- Welcome Back Assembly
- Police Liaison Presentation (TBD)
- Public Health Nurse Presentations (TBD)
- Safe Schools Bullying Awareness and Prevention Initiatives
- Digital Citizenship
- Mental Health and Wellness Day

Staff:

- Gr. 6-8 Appropriate Use of Devices form
- Introduction to Restorative Practice Framework
- School Climate Survey
- Safe and Accepting Schools Team Training
- Mental Health First Aid for Adults Who Interact with Youth Training

Parents:

- School Community Council guest speaker
- Parent Engagement presentations/activities

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink Shirt Day • TAMI presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Schools Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week • Pink Shirt Day • Orange Shirt Day • New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) Training 	
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How We Are Communicating With Students, Staff, Parents and the Community	
To support a whole school approach, the school will communicate with staff, students, parents and the community. Communication methods include:	
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of school and teacher website • Student Agenda • Staff meetings/Division Meetings • Conferencing/Meetings with students and parents • Phone Calls • Student Voice • Professional Development Days • E-Mail • Safe Schools Committee • Parent Engagement (e.g. Meet the Teacher Night, Assemblies, Concerts, Information Nights) • SCC • Digital Signage by the front office

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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	Monitoring Our Progress
	<p>As part of the continuous improvement model, the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan will be monitored regularly through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe and Accepting Schools Team meetings• Staff meetings, division meetings, department meetings, committee meetings• School improvement planning

Please visit www.ddsb.ca for more information on how the Durham District School Board is supporting student well-being and promoting a positive school climate.